THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA' PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend new sugarcane pricing policy. Government's policy in this regard would depend on the recommendations to be made by the CACP.

Export of Foodgrains

250. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported by the Food Corporation of India and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years;

(b) what are the specific problems encountered in developing our export potential and the steps taken to overcome them;

(c) the long term perspective developed for export of foodgrains as an integral part of the export strategy; and

(d) what are the fresh specific measures initiated to improve our competitiveness in terms of quality, price and delivery of foodgrains as per prevailing international standards and the market practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) is not exporting foodgrains.

(b) to (c) Government had decided to offer foodgrains for exports to the Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters. Various promotional measures have been taken by the Government as detailed below:

(i) Procedural restrictions like registration with APEDA in case of export of wheat, wheat products and non- basmati rice have been removed;

(ii) An empowered Standing Committee on Exports has been set up to take expeditious decisions.

(iii) In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government has decided to fix the offer price of export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks, and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

(iv) WTO compatible post-delivery and related expenses are being allowed to the exporters.

Diversion of Rice by NCCF

251. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice etc. are released by the National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) for export;

(b) if so, the quantity of rice released in favour of NCCF during the last three years;

(c) the price at which rice is given to NCCF and how does that rate compare with the open market;

(d) whether instances have come to Government's notice where rice released for export has been diverted to the open market at higher rate;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government against the NCCF in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) NCCF has been nominated by the Government of India as one of the agencies for export of FCI wheat & rice. As per the policy of the Government, the agencies nominated can undertake export either themselves or through their associate exporters having recognized Export House status.